

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 were pending in the present application. Claim 33 was amended herewith. New claims 38-41 were added in the present amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-41 will be pending upon the entry of the amendment presented herein.

Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. Specifically, support for the new claims may be found at least, for example, on page 77, lines 3-14, of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Any amendments to the claims were done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

33. (Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said α -MSH is attached to a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody, wherein said antibody acts as an agonist to the bound MC5r receptor.

38. (New) A method for down-regulating a T cell-mediated autoimmune response in autoimmune disease tissue site in an animal, comprising directly injecting α -MSH or an analogue or derivative of α -MSH comprising an α -MSH receptor-binding portion thereof, into or near the autoimmune-diseased tissue site.

39. (New) A method for down-regulating a T-cell-mediated autoimmune response in a tissue site in an animal, comprising:

- (a) harvesting a tissue sample from the tissue site;
- (b) treating the harvested tissue sample with α -MSH or an analogue or derivative of α -MSH comprising an α -MSH receptor-binding portion thereof; and
- (c) implanting the treated tissue sample into the animal.

40. (New) A method for down-regulating a T cell-mediated autoimmune response in autoimmune disease tissue site in an animal, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing said animal; and
- (b) directly injecting an effective amount of α -MSH or an analogue or derivative of α -MSH comprising an α -MSH receptor-binding portion thereof, into or near the autoimmune-diseased tissue site in an animal; wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to produce an *in situ* concentration in the range of about 30-100 pg/ml.

41. (New) A method for down-regulating a T-cell-mediated autoimmune response in a tissue site in an animal, comprising:

- (a) harvesting a tissue sample from the tissue site;
- (b) treating the harvested tissue sample with an effective amount of α -MSH or an analogue or derivative of α -MSH comprising an α -MSH receptor-binding portion thereof; wherein said effective amount is an amount sufficient to produce an *in situ* concentration in the range of about 30-100 pg/ml; and
- (c) implanting the treated tissue sample into the animal.